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of nearly five thousand cases, makes the work a most valuable one for practitioners and students of the law. That it is published by Callaghan & Company is sufficient guaranty for excellence in its mechanical features.

V. H. LANE.

THE LAW OF CONTRACTS. By Theophilus Parsons, LL.D. Ninth edition, edited by John M. Gould. Boston: Little, Brown & Company, 1904. 3 vols., pp. ccvii, 646; xx, 974; ix, 749.

We have before us none too soon another edition of Parsons on Contract. The profession has been in need of this for some time. The book was first written while the author was Dane Professor of Law at the Harvard Law School, a position held by him from 1848 to 1870. "At the date of Parsons' appointment as professor he was fifty-three years of age and had acquired considerable reputation, both as a practitioner in admiralty and as a literary man. His fame, however, rests upon his work at Cambridge. The ability of fixing and holding the attention of students which he possessed in an unusual degree, gave him a high reputation as a lecturer, and the treatises prepared by him in his professional work soon spread his name far and wide. His 'Law of Contracts,' which appeared in 1853, is said to have had a larger sale during the lifetime of the author than any legal text book ever published in any country." I *Green Bag*, p. 16. Mr. Parsons has been many years dead but his work on Contracts is in every lawyer's library. It is like the Bible in every well-regulated family—always there but not always consulted.

The growing tendency in the profession to specialize has rendered what may be called Commentaries on any subject of the law of less practical value than formerly. Two classes of persons, however, can ill afford to do without Parsons on Contracts; the lawyer of limited means who can not buy many books and the lawyer who can afford a thoroughly equipped library.

Parsons' work is a commentary on the subject in the larger sense. It treats of contract law in the entirety somewhat sparingly, but also covers every relation based on contract. More recent authors in England and in this country have confined their attention to the writing of a single volume on contracts in the entirety, leaving for separate and distinct treatment such subjects as Agency, Partnership, Bills and Notes, etc. This change from general to special treatises has been made in answer to the demands of the profession at the bar and in law schools. Parsons felt the demand and wrote several books upon subjects covered in his work on contracts. Perhaps he went too far.

With a desire to please laymen he wrote a book on "The Law of Business Men," and it is said that the book netted the author in royalties fully \$40,000. It is now generally conceded that such a book is great only for the harm it does.

The work of the editor of the present edition seems to have been thoroughly done. It gives us the decisions of the courts down to the present time, and his work is so well distinguished from that of other editors that we can easily tell the new from the old. We regret, however, that he did not feel called upon to include all the prefaces written by the author to the several editions published by him.

JEROME C. KNOWLTON.